

Congressman Secured More Than \$1 Million In Federal Funds For Project

Kingston, NY - Less than a week before a public hearing is held on the redevelopment of the Kingston waterfront, City of Kingston officials today unveiled designs for the redevelopment of the Rondout waterfront promenade to Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and the public. Hinchey has previously secured more than \$1 million in new federal funding to enhance Kingston's waterfront promenade by constructing a landscaped trail from the Rondout waterfront to Kingston Point.

"Between the new Rondout waterfront promenade and the redevelopment of the Pike Plan in uptown Kingston, we are witnessing a dramatic transformation in Kingston that will help create jobs and provide economic growth, beautify the city, and enhance the quality of life for residents," Hinchey said. "I was very pleased to secure more than \$1 million in federal funds to pay for the redevelopment of the Rondout waterfront, which will spare local taxpayers from having to pay for this important project in the city. The two redevelopment projects we've announced in the last week will help the city become an even better place to live, work, and visit."

The waterfront promenade project will provide public access to and along the waterfront and will connect with the walkway already in place. The trail will provide new waterfront recreational opportunities, with greater access to the Rondout and the waterfront commercial district. It will link the proposed developments along the waterfront and serve as a destination for residents and tourists. Funds will also be used for streetscaping, including trees, lighting, benches, and other amenities.

"We have been working hard on the transformation of our waterfront and have been making great progress thanks to Congressman Hinchey's invaluable efforts to secure funding and advance the redevelopment. We have also been working with great partners who have provided funding and technical expertise to help us move forward- the New York State Department of State, the Department of Transportation and the Office of Parks," said Kingston Mayor James Sottile. "To date, due to the public investments in infrastructure as described in our waterfront plan, millions in private investment has been made. Oil tanks were removed; auto recycling sites cleared and brownfield remediation has started."

Hinchey secured \$1.04 million in federal funds for the Rondout promenade from Congress as part of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) measure. The New York State Department of State (DOS) is providing \$350,000 in grant funds and the City of Kingston is investing \$240,000. The Office of Parks has also been involved with funding the construction of a section of the bulkhead adjacent to the section that will be constructed next year with DOS and New York State Department of Transportation funds.

Secretary of State Lorraine A. Cortés-Vázquez said, "Governor Paterson recognizes the importance of New York State's role in revitalization of our cities along our state's waterfronts. Advancing this goal in the Hudson Valley's river cities is a priority for the Department of State. As part of our long-standing partnership with the City of Kingston, we are pleased to be a part of the enrichment of the Rondout Creek waterfront by providing funding for this important project through the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Developing effective partnerships is key to enhancing waterfronts and revitalizing communities. In these fiscally challenging times, New York State is firmly committed to working in partnership with local governments and community groups to help make their waterfront plans a reality."

Joan Dupont, Regional Director for the New York State Department of Transportation said, "Our waterfronts offer such opportunity. The Department is pleased to be part of revitalization projects such as this, especially when they promote improved pedestrian access and safety."

The unveiling of the redevelopment plans come ahead of a public meeting that will include all interested parties and the waterfront advisory committee scheduled for October 27, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Common Council Chambers in City Hall.